



*California Aqueduct*

**Water provided by the Carlsbad Municipal Water District meets all 2010 state and federal drinking water standards. This report provides detailed water quality test results and explains where Carlsbad's water comes from.**

## Where our water comes from

The Carlsbad Municipal Water District currently imports all of its drinking water supply. There are no local sources of drinking water. The imported water supply begins hundreds of miles away as snow melt or rainfall that flows into rivers. The two main sources of water are from the Colorado River, transported through the Colorado River Aqueduct and from Northern California, transported through the California Aqueduct (also known as the State Water Project.)

Water from these sources is imported and treated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its Lake Skinner Treatment Plant in Riverside County and by the San Diego County Water Authority at its Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant in San Marcos. After rigorous treatment, the water travels through San Diego County Water Authority owned pipelines and is purchased and distributed by the Carlsbad Municipal Water District to its customers.

## Conserve a precious resource

The Carlsbad Municipal Water District eased some of the mandatory water use restrictions in May due to replenished reservoirs from winter rains and ample mountain snowpack. The San Diego region still faces long-term water supply challenges, and wise water use remains a way of life. Certain water conservation rules are always in effect for Carlsbad water customers. Visit [www.carlsbadca.gov/water](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/water) for current restrictions and water saving tips.

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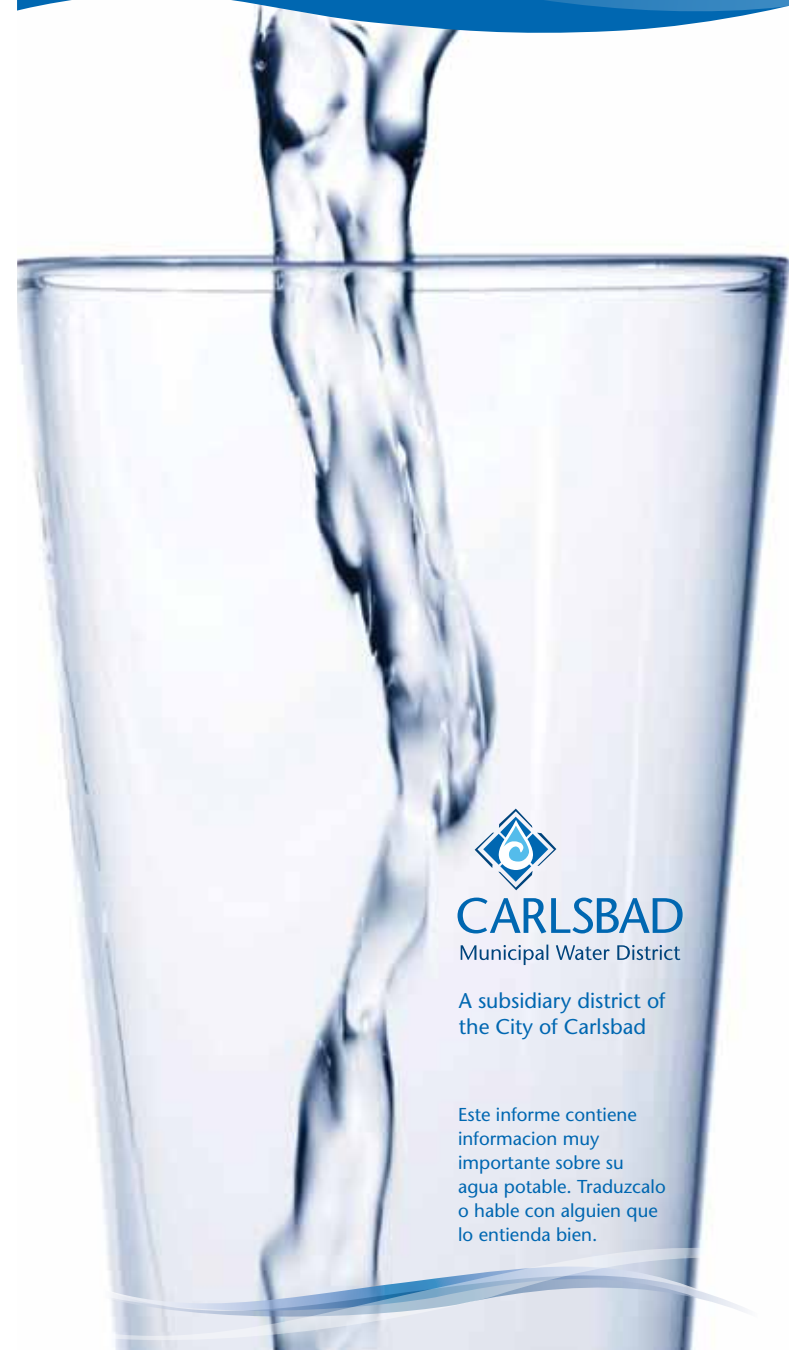


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Carlsbad, CA 92008  
760-438-2722

**Water Quality  
Report 2011**

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# Water Quality Report 2011



A subsidiary district of  
the City of Carlsbad

Este informe contiene  
información muy  
importante sobre su  
agua potable. Tradúzcalo  
o hable con alguien que  
lo entienda bien.

## Sources

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.



Colorado River

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791**.

### Contaminants that might be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that can come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, that can come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Drinking water regulations

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Public Health prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department of Public Health regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Special note:

Some people might be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/ Centers for Disease Control and prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791**.

**Some people might be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.**

### Source water assessment

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies in December 2002. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/ stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from urban/ stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and wastewater. A summary of the assessment can be obtained by calling the Metropolitan Water District at **213-217-6850**.



Storm drain

## How to contact us

This report covers testing for contaminants in 2010. For questions or concerns regarding the quality of Carlsbad's drinking water, contact Jase Warner at the Carlsbad Municipal Water District at **760-438-2722** or email [water@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:water@carlsbadca.gov).

To participate in decisions that affect drinking water in the Carlsbad Municipal Water District service area, please watch the Carlsbad Municipal Water District Board of Directors meeting agenda for drinking water items. Carlsbad Municipal Water District Board meetings are held in conjunction with the Carlsbad City Council on an as needed basis on Tuesday evenings. Agendas may be obtained at [www.carlsbadca.gov](http://www.carlsbadca.gov) or Carlsbad City Hall, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive. Comments regarding drinking water are always welcome.

This report is mailed to all Carlsbad Municipal Water District customers and is available at most city facilities. This report may be photocopied and distributed or posted. Additional copies are available on the Internet at [www.carlsbadca.gov/water](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/water).

### Carlsbad Municipal Water District

5950 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
760-438-2722 ■ [water@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:water@carlsbadca.gov)

Additional sources for water quality information:

### San Diego County Water Authority

858-522-6600 ■ [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org)

### Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

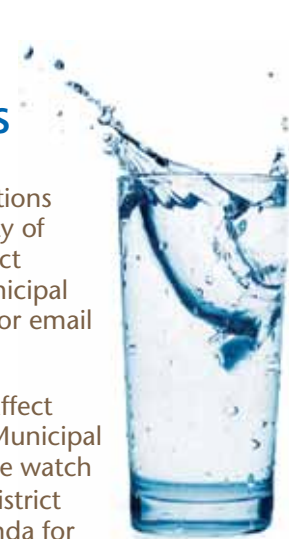
800-CALL-MWD (225-5693) ■ [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

### California Department of Public Health

Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management  
619-525-4159 ■ [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html)



# 2010 Water Quality Analysis

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority



## Abbreviations

AI	Aggressiveness Index
AL	Action Level
CFU	Colony-Forming Units
DBP	Disinfection By-Products
DLR	Detection Limits for purposes of Reporting
MBAS	Methylene Blue Active Substances
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MFL	Million Fibers per Liter
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLC	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
N	Nitrogen
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not Detected
NL	Notification Level
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/L	picoCuries per Liter
PHG	Public Health Goal
ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppq	parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter (pg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
RAA	Running Annual Average
SI	Saturation Index (Langelier)
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TON	Threshold Odor Number
TT	Treatment Technique
µS/cm	microSiemen per centimeter; or micromho per centimeter (µmho/cm)

## Footnotes

- The turbidity level of the filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. Turbidity, a measure of the cloudiness of the water, is an indicator of treatment performance. The averages and ranges of turbidity shown in the Secondary Standards were based on the treatment plant effluent.
- Total coliform MCLs: No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be total coliform-positive. Compliance is based on the combined distribution system sampling from all the treatment plants. In 2010, 7727 samples were analyzed and eight samples were positive for total coliforms. The MCL was not violated.
- E. coli MCL: The occurrence of two consecutive total coliform-positive samples, one of which contains E. coli, constitutes an acute MCL violation. The MCL was not violated.
- All distribution system samples collected had detectable total chlorine residuals and no HPC was required. HPC reporting level is 1 CFU/mL.
- Aluminum, copper, MTBE, and thiobencarb have both primary and secondary standards.
- MTBE reporting level is 0.5 ppb.
- Lead and copper are regulated as a Treatment Technique under the Lead and Copper Rule, which requires water samples to be collected at the consumers' tap. If action levels are exceeded in more than 10% of the consumer tap samples, water systems must take steps to reduce these contaminants.
- Metropolitan was in compliance with all provisions of the State's Fluoridation System Requirements.

Parameter	Units	State or Federal MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	State DLR	Range Average	Treatment Plant Effluent				Major Sources in Drinking Water
							Skinner Plant	Twin Oaks Plant Range Average	Twin Oaks Valley Plant	
Percent State	%	NA	NA	NA	Range		3 - 36	Range	NA	
Project Water	%	NA	NA	NA	Average		24	Average	NA	
<b>PRIMARY STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards</b>										
<b>CLARITY</b>										
Combined Filter	NTU	0.3			Highest		0.05	Range	0.014-0.661	
Effluent Turbidity	NTU							Average	0.029	Soil runoff
	%	95 (a)	NA	NA	% < 0.3		100	% < 0.1	99.97	
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>										
Total Coliform	%	5.0	(0)	NA	Range	Distribution System-wide:	ND - 0.3	Range	ND	
Bacteria (b)					Average	Distribution System-wide:	0.1	Average	ND	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform					Range	ND (Local)				
Bacteria (b) (Local Sampling)					Average	ND (Local)				Naturally present in the environment
Heterotrophic Plate Count					Range	Distribution System-wide:	TT	Range	NA	
(HPC) (d)	CFU/mL	TT	NA	NA	Average	Distribution System-wide:	TT	Average	NA	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds</b>										
Acrylamide	NA	TT	(0)	NA	Range		TT	Range	TT	
					Average		TT	Average	TT	Water treatment chemical impurities
Epichlorohydrin	NA	TT	(0)	NA	Range		TT	Range	TT	
					Average		TT	Average	TT	Water treatment chemical impurities
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>										
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	2	Range		ND	Single		Natural deposits erosion, glass and electronics production wastes
					Highest RAA		ND	Sample	1.9	
Barium	ppb	1,000	2,000	100	Range		ND - 120	Single		Oil and metal refineries discharge; natural deposits erosion
					Average		110	Sample	94	
Copper (Local 2009 Samples 34 Sites)	ppm	AL = 1.3	0.3	0.05	Range	ND - 0.37 (Local)				(g)
					90%ile	0.25 (Local)				
					Control Range		0.7 - 1.3		0.7 - 1.3	
					Optimal Fluoride Level		0.8		0.8	
Fluoride (h)					Range		0.6 - 1.0	Range	0.55 - 0.97	Water additive for dental health
Treatment-related	ppm	2.0	1	0.1	Average		0.8	Average	0.8	
					Range	ND - 0.006 (Local)				
Lead (Local 2009 Samples 34 Sites)	ppb	AL = 15	0.2	5	Range	ND (Local)				(g)
					90%ile	ND (Local)				
					Range		ND	Range	ND - 0.61	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; septic tank and sewage; natural deposits erosion
Nitrate (as N) (i)	ppm	10	10	0.4	Highest RAA		ND	Average	0.3	
<b>RADIOLOGICALS (k)</b>										
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	(0)	3	Range		3.3 - 4.3	Range	ND	
Particle Activity					Average		3.6	Average	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	pCi/L	50	(0)	4	Range		ND - 8.8	Range	ND - 4.2	
Particle Activity (l)					Average		ND	Average	1.7	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
					Range		ND	Range	ND - 0.71	
Strontium-90	pCi/L	8	0.35	2	Average		ND	Average	0.12	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
					Range		2.3 - 2.7	Range	2.5 - 4.1	
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	1	Average		2.5	Average	3.3	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS PRECURSORS (n)</b>										
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (Local Samples)	ppb	80	NA	1	Range	27 - 67 (Local)				By-product of drinking water chlorination
					Highest RAA	44.5 (Local)				
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (o)	ppb	80	NA	1	Range		20 - 45	Range	22 - 51	
					Average		30	Average	35	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (o)	ppb	80	NA	1	Range	Distribution System-wide:	12 - 86			By-product of drinking water chlorination
					Highest RAA	41				
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (Local Samples)	ppb	60	NA	1	Range	6.2 - 17 (Local)				By-product of drinking water chlorination
					Highest RAA	17.3 (Local)				
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (p)	ppb	60	NA	1	Range		9.3 - 18	Range	ND - 7.4	
					Average		12	Average	2.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (p)	ppb	60	NA	1	Range	Distribution System-wide:	1.6 - 38			By-product of drinking water chlorination
					Highest RAA	13				
Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	[4.0]	[4.0]	NA	Range	Distribution System-wide:	1.2 - 2.9			Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
					Highest RAA	2.3				
Bromate (q)	ppb	10	0.1	5.0	Range	ND - 6.1	Range	ND - 5.5		
DBP Precursors Control (TOC)	ppm	TT	NA	0.30	Average		NA	Average	ND	By-product of drinking water ozonation
					Range		TT	Range	TT	
					Average		TT	Average	TT	Various natural and man-made sources
<b>SECONDARY STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards</b>										
Chloride	ppm	500	NA	NA	Range		88 - 98	Single	97	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Highest RAA		96	Sample	ND - 3.0	
Color	Units	15	NA	NA	Range		1	Range	ND	Naturally-occurring organic materials
					Highest RAA		ND	Average	ND - 2.4	
Manganese	ppb	50	NL = 500	20	Range		ND	Average	ND	Leaching from natural deposits
					Average		19 - 35	Range	ND	
Odor Threshold (r)	TON	3	NA	1	Range		25	Average	ND	Naturally-occurring organic materials
					Average		720 - 1,000	Single		Substances that form ions in water;



Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1,600	NA	NA	Highest RAA			940	Sample	880	seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	0.5	Highest RAA			160 - 240	Single		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits;
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1,000	NA	NA	Highest RAA			210	Sample	200	industrial wastes
					Range			480 - 610	Single		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits;
					Highest RAA			560	Sample	530	seawater influence
					Range			0.03 - 0.06	NA		
Turbidity (a)	NTU	5	NA	NA	Highest RAA			0.05	NA		Soil runoff

### FEDERAL UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING RULE (UCMR2) (s)

#### List 2 - Screening Survey

N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)	ppb	NA	NA	0.002	Range Average			ND - 0.004	Single Sample	ND	By-product of drinking water chloramination; industrial processes
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### OTHER PARAMETERS

#### MICROBIOLOGICAL

HPC (d)	CFU/mL	TT	NA	NA	Range Average			ND - 1	Range Average	0 - 10	Naturally present in the environment
								ND		0.6	

#### CHEMICAL

Alkalinity	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range Highest RAA			91 - 130	Single Sample	110	
Boron	ppb	NL = 1,000	NA	100	Range Average			120 - 130	Single Sample	140	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range Highest RAA			52 - 70	Single Sample	56	
Chlorate	ppb	NL = 800	NA	20	Range	Distribution System-wide:		64	Sample	180 - 340	By-product of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
					Range			47	Range	263	Industrial waste discharge; could be naturally present as well
Chromium VI (t)	ppb	NA	NA	0.03	Highest RAA			26 - 110	Average	ND	
Corrosivity (u) (as Aggressiveness Index)	AI	NA	NA	NA	Range Average			0.08 - 0.23	Single Sample	12	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
Corrosivity (v) (as Saturation Index)	SI	NA	NA	NA	Range Average			0.16	Single Sample	0.36	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
					Range			12.0 - 12.4	Single Sample		
Hardness	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Highest RAA			12.2	Sample		
					Range			0.20 - 0.51	Single Sample		
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Highest RAA			0.31	Sample		
pH	pH Units	NA	NA	NA	Range Average			190 - 300	Single Sample	230	
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Highest RAA			260	Sample	22	
					Range			21 - 28	Single Sample	7.6	
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Highest RAA			25	Sample	4	
					Range			7.7 - 8.3	Single Sample	85	
TOC	ppm	TT	NA	0.30	Highest RAA			7.9	Sample	2.2	Various natural and man-made sources
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (w)	ppb	NL = 0.01	0.003	0.002	Range	Distribution System-wide:		3.9 - 4.8	Single Sample	ND	By-product of drinking water chloramination; industrial processes
					Range			4.7	Sample	ND	
					Range			80 - 100	Single Sample		
					Range			91	Sample		
					Range			1.8 - 2.3	Range	2.0 - 2.4	
					Highest RAA			2.1	Average	2.2	
					Range			ND - 0.002	Range	ND	
					Range			ND - 0.01	Average	ND	

## How to read this report

As you read the water quality tables in this report, compare the level of constituents found in Carlsbad Municipal Water District’s water in the “Skinner Plant” and “Twin Oaks Valley Plant” columns with the standards set for them in the MCL and PHG columns. The Carlsbad Municipal Water District met all drinking water standards in 2010.

The following are key terms to help you understand the standards we used to measure drinking water safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Public Health Goal (PHG)** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS)** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Treatment Technique** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Regulatory Action Level** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

*This report can be downloaded from [www.carlsbadca.gov/water](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/water)*

- (i) State MCL is 45 mg/L as nitrate, which is the equivalent of 10 mg/L as N.
- (j) Perchlorate reporting level is 2 ppb.
- (k) Data collected (triennially) from four consecutive quarters of monitoring in 2008.
- (l) The gross beta particle activity MCL is 4 millirem/year annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ. The screening level is 50 pCi/L.
- (m) State MCL is 5 pCi/L for combined Radium-226 and -228.
- (n) Metropolitan was in compliance with all provisions of the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP) Rule. Compliance was based on the RAA.
- (o) Reporting level is 0.5 ppb for each of the following: bromodichloromethane, bromoform, chloroform, and dibromochloromethane.
- (p) DLR is 1.0 ppb for each of the following: dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid; and 2.0 ppb for monochloroacetic acid.
- (q) Bromate reporting level is 3 ppb. The Skinner water treatment plant began using ozone as the primary disinfectant in October 2010. The bromate RAA will be calculated after four quarters of data have been collected.
- (r) Data for Skinner based on the State-required quarterly monitoring following MCL exceedance. The quarterly samples reported to the State were 35 TON in January, 20 TON in April, 19 TON in July, and 24 TON in October. Metropolitan utilizes a flavor-profile analysis (FPA) method that can detect odor occurrences more accurately and found the FPA samples from this location acceptable. No taste and odor event was observed and no complaints were received during the period.
- (s) Data collected from February 2009 to August 2009. Minimum reporting levels are as stipulated in the Federal UCMR 2. List 1 - Assessment Monitoring consists of 10 chemical contaminants for which standard analytical methods were available. List 2 - Screening Survey consists of 15 contaminants for which new analytical methods were used. All analysis conducted by contract laboratories. Values listed in State DLR column are Federal minimum reporting levels.
- (t) Chromium VI reporting level is 0.03 ppb.
- (u) AI <10.0 = Highly aggressive and very corrosive water  
AI > 12.0 = Non-aggressive water  
AI (10.0 - 11.9 ) = Moderately aggressive water
- (v) Positive SI index = non-corrosive; tendency to precipitate and/or deposit scale on pipes  
Negative SI index = corrosive; tendency to dissolve calcium carbonate
- (w) Analysis conducted by Metropolitan’s Water Quality Laboratory using Standard Methods 6450B.



## Required information for lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Carlsbad Municipal Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).